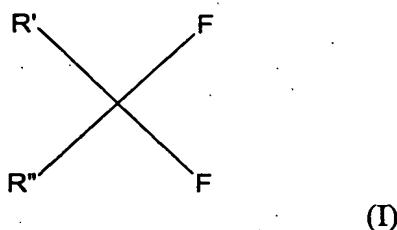
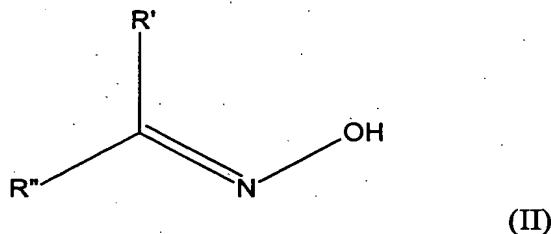


Claims

1. Process for the preparation of a geminal difluoroalkane of the general formula (I),



wherein, independently from each other, R' and R" represent substituted alkyl-, aryl- or aralkyl or may be combined by the formation of a cyclic system, characterized in that an oxime of the general formula (II)

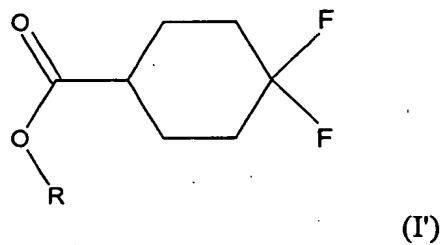


whereas R' and R" are defined as aforesaid, is converted using a nitrite and a complex consisting of hydrogen fluoride and an organic base.

15 2. Process according to claim 1, characterized in that R' and R" represent C<sub>1</sub> - C<sub>8</sub>-alkyl or aryl or, in combination with the carbon atom they are bound to, C<sub>3</sub> - C<sub>8</sub>-alkyl.

20 3. Process according to claim 2, characterized in that R' and R" form a cyclohexane ring in combination with the carbon atom they are bound to.

4. Process according to claim 3, characterized in that the difluoroalkane of the general formula (I) is a difluorocyclohexane-carboxylic acid ester of the general formula (I'),



5

wherein R represents a hydrogen atom or C<sub>1</sub> - C<sub>8</sub>-alkyl.

5. Process according to claim 4, characterized in that the difluoroalkane of the general formula (I') is 4,4-difluorocyclohexane-carboxylic acid ethyl ester.

10

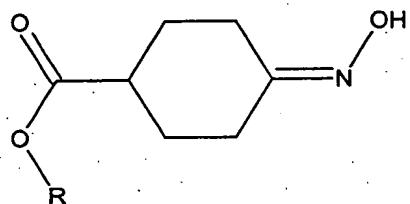
6. Process according to claim 4, characterized in that the difluoroalkane is 4,4-difluorocyclohexane-carboxylic acid.

15

7. Difluorocyclohexane-carboxylic acid ester of the general formula (I') according to claim 4, wherein R represents a hydrogen atom or a C<sub>1</sub> - C<sub>8</sub>-alkyl residue.

8. Compound according to claim 7, namely 4,4-difluorocyclohexane-carboxylic acid.

9. Compound according to the general formula (II')



(II')

5

wherein R represents a hydrogen atom or a C<sub>1</sub> - C<sub>8</sub>-alkyl residue.

10. Use of 4,4-difluorocyclohexane-carboxylic acid as an intermediate in the manufacture of pharmaceutical products.

10